

BIBLE ANSWERS to 294 Important Questions in Forty Years' Ministry

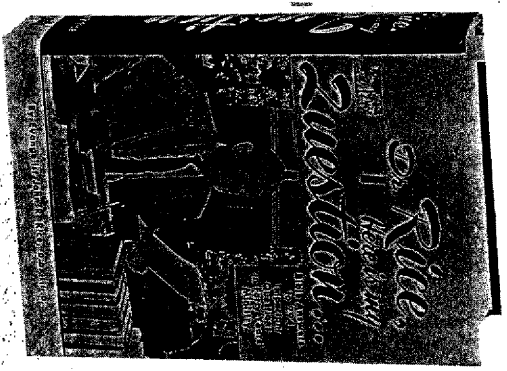
For the first time, the choicest, most important of these questions and their answers are gathered in one large volume. They are arranged in 24 chapters.

The questions and Scriptures are carefully indexed. We believe there is more doctrine taught here than in a course of systematic theology, more counseling on Christian problems than a pastor could give in years. It is a big book of 368 pages, 24 chapters.

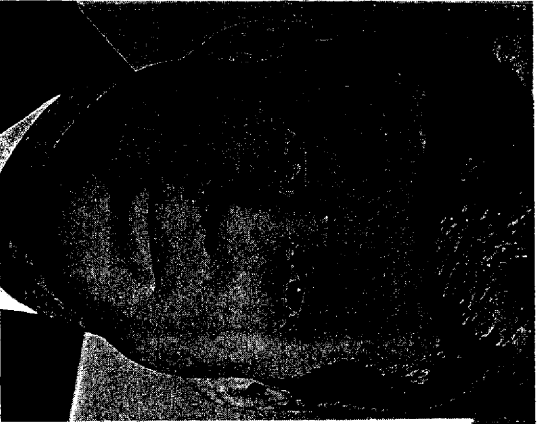
Dr. Harold B. Sighler of the Tabernacle Baptist Church, Greenville, South Carolina, wrote us about the book:

"It was with real delight that I received a copy of the new book by Dr. Rice... The questions are honest, practical and and upon the heart of most people. There are no foolish questions dealt with in the book. Not only do the questions reveal the thinking of most people, but the answers in true Rice form are directly from the Scriptures. Any Christian would do well to have this volume at hand as a gold mine of Bible truth."

Only 395



Dr. Rice's secretary, Miss Viola Walden, and editorial workers assembled the material. Dr. Rice edited it carefully and now you may have it for only \$3.95. It is the right equipment for any time, for counseling, winning souls or just for the joy and blessing it will bring. It is the gift that will fit all occasions. Order a copy today!



What

Was

Back

of

**BENEDY'S
MURDER?**

By Evangelist John R. Rice

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What Was Back of Kennedy's Murder?

1. Why Did God Allow the Assassination?
2. Why Did Harvey Oswald Do It?
3. Why Do Silly Wicked Men Blame Loyal Americans,
Fundamental Christians and Anti-Communists for It?

"The king spake, and said, Is not this great Babylon, that I have built for the house of the kingdom by the might of my power, and for the honour of my majesty? While the word was in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, saying, O king Nebuchadnezzar, to thee it is spoken: The kingdom is departed from thee. And they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field: they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and seven times shall pass over thee, until thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will."—Dan. 4:30-32.

Shortly after noon November 22, 1963, as President John Fitzgerald Kennedy rode in the triumphant procession with Governor Connally of Texas, cheered by tens of thousands of onlookers through downtown Dallas, Texas, he was killed by an assassin's bullet. Harvey

Oswald fired a high-powered rifle with telescopic sight from the sixth floor of a building overlooking the parade route. President Kennedy was shot through the head. He was rushed to Parkland Hospital and if not dead on arrival, died in a few minutes. Gov-

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ernor John Connally of Texas, riding in the same car, was badly wounded.

That night the Vice-President, Lyndon B. Johnson, of Texas, fifty-five years old, was sworn in as the thirty-sixth president, in the presidential plane, and flew back at once to Washington along with the body of the dead President, the president's wife and immediate party.

Oswald got away from the scene, but when police stopped to question him, he shot and killed Patrolman J. D. Tippit and was then arrested in an Oak Cliff theater.

Oswald, twenty-four years old, openly professed to be a disciple of Karl Marx, went to Russia and in 1959 announced that he had applied to denounce his American citizenship and become a Russian. He married a Russian girl and came back to the United States. Two days after the President's assassination Harvey Oswald, then being transferred from the city jail to the county jail, was shot and killed by Jack Ruby, operator of a strip-tease joint.

The murder of the energetic and popular young President shocked the whole world. Those who did not vote for him and did not believe in his political philosophy yet respected him. Many Protestants who did not vote for this Catholic man, from honest conviction, yet respected him as their President and mourned over the crime and grieved for the widow and the fatherless children. Dignitaries from big governments of the world came to Washington for the funeral and to pay respects to

America and the memory of the late President. Republicans called for a month's moratorium on political debate out of respect for the late Democratic President. Prominent American leaders who had been, we think properly, greatly concerned about the wasteful spending, the vastly increasing public debts, and the socialistic program of Mr. Kennedy's New Frontier, felt that a period of mourning for all America was proper and thus called a truce for a few days to the fight on the things about the Kennedy administration which they felt honorable to oppose. So it was with Senator Goldwater, with the great Christian leader, Dr. Carl McIntire, and others.

But now President Lyndon B. Johnson has gotten a solid hold on American affairs and is proving himself an efficient and powerful President. The former President is buried. Proper respect has been done to his memory. Now it is proper and right that Christian leaders should speak out to set out the moral and spiritual issues in the assassination of President Kennedy.

The senseless and wicked murder of President Kennedy was an unspeakable tragedy. We believe he was an honest and gifted American. He served in World War II with honor. Although he was a Catholic, we believe he honestly supported the separation of church and state and tried not to be partial to Catholics. We did not vote for him and would not have voted for him again, but we are shocked at his murder and we feel that the murderer should have

been tried by a court of law and should have been given the death penalty. We do not regret that the murderer, Lee Harvey Oswald, died: we only regret that he died illegally and not legally.

But how there are serious spiritual questions about President Kennedy's tragic assassination.

1. Why did God allow it?
2. And why did Oswald commit the crime?

3. Why the silly and wicked charges blaming loyal, anti-communist Americans for the President's death?

We prayerfully suggest the truth as we see it.

1. WHY DID GOD ALLOW THE ASSASSINATION?

Why did God allow the man chosen by American people as President to be slain before his first term was finished? Why the shock to millions who loved him? Why was Jacqueline Kennedy suddenly made a widow and the two children left fatherless? Why did God allow a wicked man to commit a wicked crime to bring pain and hurt to multitudes?

These are good questions. We do not know all the answers. Perhaps we can give some of them.

1. We May Be Sure That God for Good Reasons Did Allow the Assassination of President Kennedy

Many Scriptures show that God has His hands on the affairs of men. The affairs of history do not take God by surprise, do not de-

feat His purposes. If I had known about it and could have done so, I would have prevented the murder of President Kennedy. God did know about it and God could have prevented it, but He did not.

God sent a warning dream to proud Nebuchadnezzar, builder of the first world empire at Babylon. But because he did not humble himself, God said "they shall drive thee from men, and thy dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field, and they shall make thee to eat grass as oxen, and they shall wet thee with the dew of heaven, and seven times shall pass over thee, till thou know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will" (Dan. 4:25). And then we are told that the thing happened exactly as God had promised. Nebuchadnezzar lost his mind, lived like a wild beast for seven years and then was restored that he might "know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will." We may be sure, then, that presidents and kings do not take office without His permission, and they are not cut down contrary to God's plans.

But one may ask, Was wicked Lee Harvey Oswald a fit instrument of God's will? The answer is that "surely the wrath of man shall praise thee; the remainder of wrath shalt thou restrain" (Ps. 76:10). So God punished Israel again and again by the hand of heathen people around about them, as we read in the book of Judges. So Israel was carried into captivity by king Nebuchadnezzar of

Babylon. So the kings of Judah and Israel, Azariah and Jehoram, were slain by Jehu. Even Judas, who betrayed the Lord Jesus with a traitor's kiss for money, and the time-serving governor Pilate who consented to his death, and the wicked Jewish Sanhedrin which clamored for the crucifixion of the Son of God, in these matters were used to bring about the will of God and the death of His Son to pay for the sins of the whole world. Yes, God does use wicked men to bring about His will.

Many Scriptures also teach that what we regard as "acts of God" in law are really just that. When lightning strikes a man and kills him, or a tree falls upon him, or an automobile accident takes his life, it is, in some sense, really "an act of God." In Luke 13:1-5 Jesus takes the responsibility for God, for the death of the Galileans whom Pilate killed for their sins, and again, "Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:4, 5). The tower of Siloam falling on eighteen people did the will of God.

So in some very real sense the assassin's bullet which cut down President Kennedy did the will of God. God knew about the impending tragedy; He could have prevented it, but He did not. He is not powerless. It was a matter of His choice. He had reasons for permitting the tragedy and He will bring good out of it for the people who love Him and trust Him. Romans 8:28 gives the solemn and

eternal promise, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

We must honestly face it, then, that as God allowed Satan to bring trouble on Job, as He allowed John the Baptist to be beheaded, as He allowed Paul to spend years in prison and then die, so God allows trouble to come to good people. And as God brought Pharaoh to doom in the Red Sea, as God put proud Nebuchadnezzar off his throne for seven years, and as God used heathen nations to chastise Israel, so God took President Kennedy from the presidency and from life, although He used the bullet of a wicked man to do it. Either God has all power and actually controls this universe, or He does not; and if He controls the universe, then God allowed the death of President Kennedy and had reasons for it.

2. We Believe President Kennedy Had the Curse of a Liquor-Selling Father Upon Him

Now we must say a thing which grieves us to say, as it will grieve others to read it. To interpret the dealings of God, we must go to the Word of God and there, certainly, we find the divine law of sowing and reaping. We believe that President Kennedy, dying by a bullet through the head, suffered from the curse which God Himself pronounces in Habakkuk 2:15, "Woe unto him that putteth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also, that thou mayest look on their nakedness!"

The father of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy is Joseph P. Kennedy. After the appeal of the eighteenth amendment (the prohibition amendment) in 1933, Kennedy got a favored position with the government, got a license to import Scotch whiskey, and thus when saloons and bars were opened again without American-made whiskey to fill the demand, Kennedy made millions. Then multimillionaire Kennedy was favored of the New Deal administration and in 1938 was sent to England as Ambassador.

So it was largely whiskey money that paid the tremendous expense of campaigning, which made John Fitzgerald Kennedy able to be elected president. It was largely whiskey money from which the elder Kennedy gave a million dollars to each of his children, including John Kennedy.

Now we believe the curse of God rests on anybody who sells and serves liquor and thus has part in the making of drunkards and paupers and harlots and in filling jails and premature graves, in breaking happy homes, and multiplying the inhabitants of Hell. God says, "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink." That is a part of the divine law, "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to the flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption. . . ." (Gal. 6:7, 8).

The Bible pronounces a woe on those who drink liquor. "Woe to the crown of pride, to the drunkards of Ephraim. . . ." (Isa. 28:1). And again, "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath conten-

tions? who hath babblings? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. . . . At the last it biteeth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder" (Prov. 23:29, 30, 32). Does anybody doubt that there is a curse on the drinking of liquor? Does anybody doubt the pain, the poverty, the broken homes, the crime, the slavery of the drink habit? Well, that curse is pronounced in the Bible. And a similar curse is pronounced on those who give a neighbor drink, those who sell and those who serve liquor!

In a tabernacle revival campaign at Petersburg, Illinois, years ago I preached on "The Double Curse of Booze," and I challenged people to follow carefully what happened to the families and homes of bartenders and liquor sellers. I stated my conviction, that in every case the curse of God would in some way be manifested on those who are under this woe pronounced in the Bible. A liquor dealer was enraged at my sermon and cursed and blasphemed up and down the streets saying that his business was legitimate, he was licensed to sell liquor, that if people drank too much and if people were cursed by booze, it was not his fault.

I closed the revival and returned home. In two weeks, I think it was, a pastor wrote me that the same liquor dealer went down to his bar one morning and as he put his key in the lock to open the door he fell over dead. Trouble followed his children, too.

I am saying there is a woe, a curse, pronounced of God on those

who sell liquor. "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him, and makest him drunken also. . . ." (Hab. 2:15).

Now, with compassion of heart and with sincere sympathy for those who suffered, let us note the sad story of disaster that has followed the Kennedy family.

1. The multimillionaire Joseph Kennedy, Sr., has suffered a paralytic stroke, is incurable and probably mentally affected by the stroke.

2. One daughter, Rosemary Kennedy, is mentally retarded, has spent many years in a home for the mentally defective.

3. Joe Kennedy, Jr., was killed as a bomber pilot in World War II, in 1944.

4. Kathleen Kennedy married, then her husband died in the war. In 1948 she died tragically in an air crash.

5. John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Jacqueline have lost two babies, one stillborn and never named, the other born after the Kennedys came into the White House. Both babies have been moved now to lie beside the President in Arlington Cemetery.

6. Last of all, President John Fitzgerald Kennedy, inheritor of whiskey money, elected to the presidency largely with whiskey money, was shot down by the assassin's bullet, and America mourns.

The Associated Press noted this week on the Kennedy family and after the President's death published the following:

"Kennedys Walk With Violence"

"WASHINGTON (AP)—Violent death is no stranger to the family of Joseph P. Kennedy. Along with great wealth and political triumph many tragedies have come to the Irish-American clan from Boston.

"Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., elder brother of the assassinated President, was lost in action in World War II. A Navy pilot, Kennedy vanished on an air mission from England to occupied France in 1944. This was the son who originally had borne the political hopes of the family but who did not live to enter this field.

"Only a month later, a son-in-law, the Marquis of Hartington, was killed in action in France. And in 1948, Lady Harrington, the former Kathleen Kennedy, perished with three others in a plane crash in France.

"For many years, another sister, Mary, has been in an institution for the mentally retarded. It was this misfortune that spurred the family's interest in programs for the prevention and treatment of mental retardation."

I do not rejoice in these judgments of God. I simply repeat that there is a divine law of sowing and reaping which no man, whether President or common laborer, can evade. There is a woe, a curse, on all who sell and distribute and serve intoxicating liquor as well as on those who drink it. As certain as the Bible is true, this curse is part of God's reason for allowing the assassination of President Kennedy.

I do not think this is the end of the curse, but it is the great public climax of it, evidently.

But one may properly ask, Would this curse on a father descend to the children? Yes, that is the clear teaching of the Scriptures.

Exodus 20, verses 5 and 6 say, ". . . For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

Note here that the words *love* and *hate* refer to either keeping God's commandments or not keeping them. God shows "mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments." But God is a jealous God visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children of the third and fourth generation of those that do not keep His commandments and, in that practical sense, are against God.

And a jealous God visits the iniquity of the father "upon the children unto the third and fourth generation," says the Scripture!

Is God thus unjust? No, for in truth the father makes the child. If the father drinks, then the son usually drinks also. Both President Kennedy and Jacqueline used liquor, served it in the White House and lived in luxury on liquor money inherited from the elder whiskey importer Kennedy.

David's children suffered from his sin. First, the baby born of his sin with Bath-sheba died. Then his beautiful daughter Tamar was

raped by his son Amnon. Then Amnon was killed by an avenging brother, Absalom. Then Absalom stole the kingdom, would have killed his father David and was himself killed in the war. Children do reap their father's sowing. Children do suffer for their fathers' sins. The curse, "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that putteth thy bottle to him," may descend from father to son, even to the third and fourth generation, according to the Scriptures.

What else did God have in mind in permitting the death of President Kennedy? It may well be He wanted to save America from wasteful bankruptcy. I do not know. We may be sure that this is part of the "all things" which Romans 8:28 promises work together for good to them that love the Lord. God still makes the wrath of men to praise Him. God still brings right out of wrong.

II. WHY DID LEE HARVEY OSWALD KILL THE PRESIDENT?

I think the facts are so well-established that we may say plainly Oswald killed President Kennedy because he was a criminal-minded Marxist, a man of socialist, communist principles and moral standards. Several facts show that he was a Marxist.

1. Lee Harvey Oswald as a Socialist-Communist

Consider the following facts about Oswald. The Associated Press says, "He says he became

interested in Marxism at the age of fifteen when a communist pamphlet fell into his hands. Later he discovered Marx's 'Das Kapital,' the Bible of communism."

After Oswald was released from the army he was in Moscow, Russia, on October 30, 1959, he appeared at the American embassy, "where he announced his decision to renounce his American citizenship. He told officials: 'I am a Marxist.'" Again he said, "Capitalism has passed its peak. I would like to spend the rest of my life here."

On November 2, 1959, according to the American State department, Oswald turned in his American passport in Moscow and in an affidavit declared: "I affirm that my allegiance is to the Soviet Socialist Republic."

Oswald married a Russian girl, Marina Nicholaevna.

Oswald did not obtain Soviet citizenship, so returned to America. In New Orleans he appeared on a radio program, "in which he described himself as a Marxist but not a communist."

The House Committee on Un-American Activities lists Oswald in its records as secretary of the New Orleans chapter of a group called, "Fair Play for Cuba."

Thus it is an established fact that Oswald was a disciple of Karl Marx, that he was for Russian communism, that he was for Fidel Castro in Cuba. Naturally, he did not like the strict government supervision in Russia as he did, not like to obey the laws in America, but he did take up the principles of Karl Marx as a socialist and communist.

2. But Oswald Murdered the President Because He Was a Criminal, With Criminal Moral Standards

Why should Lee Oswald want to kill President Kennedy? Not, we suppose, for political reasons. Nothing he ever said indicated that he was against the program of the Democratic party nor against President Kennedy's political program. He did not do it as an agent of Russia. He did not kill President Kennedy, as far as anybody can learn after the strongest possible investigation, as a part of his communist conspiracy. Communism helped to make Lee Oswald what he was, and then the murder grew out of what he was.

There is some indication that he had planned spectacular crimes in order to get notoriety. But much more evidence was that he was a rebel against society, that he hated government and discipline. A Fort Worth policeman said that he knew Oswald from the fifth grade until his entry into Arlington Heights High School in Fort Worth and said, "He was always opposed to any kind of discipline. He seemed to hold it against people up there—any authority. In an altercation with the coach of the school B football team, the policeman recalled Oswald shouting: 'It's supposed to be a free country, a man's supposed to be able to do what he wants.'"

In the marines "his military career was not a success. Twice he faced court martial for infractions of regulations." He never rose above the rank of private first class.

It is quite possible that primary-

ly Oswald intended to kill Governor John Connally of Texas, who was wounded at the same time. From the Associated Press we read

"Connally Possible Principal Target

WASHINGTON (AP) — A 1961 letter found in the Pentagon's personnel files raises a question whether Gov. John Connally of Texas rather than President Kennedy was the primary target of an assassin's bullets in Dallas, Texas, Friday.

"The letter was addressed to Connally, then Secretary of the Navy, asking a reversal of Oswald's undesirable discharge from the Marine Corps."

Did Oswald seek vengeance because of his undesirable discharge from the marines, and because Connally did not reverse the discharge and make it an honorable discharge?

I think it is clear he was a rebel against discipline, against law, whether in the schoolroom or in the marines or from the government.

It is only fair to say that this kind of character is developed by Marxist principles and teaching. Karl Marx himself was lazy, immoral. He would not work and lived off the help of Engels and his other friends while he criticized society and the Bible and Christianity and governments.

Sometimes the wicked and criminal-minded turn to communism because they already hold the immoral standards and the godless attitude of the communists. In other cases communism makes immoral standards and lowers men's consciences and principles to the

murder, dictatorship, the bloody revolutions, and the crimes which are openly advocated by communists to reach their aims. Either communism made Lee Harvey Oswald, or he, a rebel against society and God, found a kinship among communists. Most likely it was a combination of the two things that made Harvey Oswald the criminal, rebel, the godless murderer that he was.

Oswald felt perfectly free to advocate the overthrow of the American government, and then to appeal to Senator John Tower of Texas to have the government bring him home from Russia, so he was advanced a loan of \$435 to come back to the states. It is not known whether this was ever repaid.

In New Orleans his landlady tells how he slipped away at night with his wife from their rented apartment without paying the rent which was due.

Oswald had accepted the principles of Karl Marx, "From each according to his ability, to each according to his need," which sounds fine, but really means that the man who doesn't earn a living should be supported by the man who does; that the lazy should be supported by the men of character and energy. If you hear this teaching by a modernistic preacher or in Sunday School quarters of modernistic denominations, you will know they got it from Karl Marx. It is socialism and that is the foundation of communism. If a Democratic platform advocates that you should "redistribute the wealth" as President Roosevelt expressed it, by taxing the workers to support the nonworkers,

soaking the rich to support the poor and gain their votes, then you will know that is a part of Karl Marx's recipe for socialism. Harvey Lee Oswald made no claim to being a Christian, and as a communist he openly disavowed the plain Bible teaching that one should reap according to his sowing; should be paid according to his earning (Gal. 6:7, 8), and the teaching that "if any would not work, neither should he eat" (II Thess. 3:10). This lawless, criminal attitude made Lee Harvey Oswald a murderer.

III. LOYAL AMERICANS, FUNDAMENTAL CHRISTIANS AND ANTI-COMMUNISTS WERE FALSELY BLAMED FOR THE PRESIDENT'S DEATH

It is a shocking aftermath of the President's death that the radicals, the socialists, the communists in America and abroad, joined in blaming the murder of the President on the so-called "radical right." They said that the murder was a product of hate-mongering by all who opposed the left-wing activities of the "New Frontier." They accused all who opposed what they regarded as giving away American independence to the United Nations, all who opposed what many of us honestly see as the waste and wild spending and billions of increased debts of the Kennedy administration. It was already well-proved that Harvey Oswald was himself a socialist, a pro-communist, and that the assassination had no connection whatever with and no encouragement from the loyal Americans, the fundamental Christians,

the old-line Republicans, the anti-communists.

In fact Dallas authorities are now convinced that it was this same communist, Harvey Oswald, who shot at and nearly killed General Edwin Walker, the ardent foe of communism, some time before the President's death. He would kill Walker for being against left-wing socialism and communism. He would kill the President because he was a rebel.

1. Communists Lead in Accusing Loyal Americans

But from Moscow the official communist paper blamed the death of the President to "gangsters whose connections often lead to very high-placed extreme right-wing quarters and their patrons." The Associated Press dispatch from Moscow is as follows:

"Pravda Blasts U. S. Rightists"

"Moscow (AP)—Pravda charged yesterday that American right-wingers are trying to use the assassination of President Kennedy to stir up anti-Soviet and anti-Cuban hysteria. "The organ of the Communist party said Dallas police for provocative purposes were trying to pin it on U. S. Communists.

"Pravda was skeptical about the arrest of Lee Harvey Oswald and said 'the more details are reported, the darker and more suspicious all this story becomes.'

"The newspaper was echoing charges first made last night by Radio Moscow.

"It continued to paint Kennedy as the victim of opponents

of efforts to improve East-West relations.

"Definite quarters, Pravda said, are now striving to cover up the traces of the bloody crime and use the tragic death of the president for stirring up anti-Soviet and anti-Cuban hysteria.

"The murder of the U. S. president is a monstrous crime which has shocked all the world and the indignation of the Americans is perfectly understandable. But the very method of this terrorist act is not new for the United States. It is reminiscent of other much smaller acts of gangsters whose connections often lead to very high-placed extreme right-wing quarters and their patrons."

"Pravda went on:

"All America knows that the most reactionary, the wildest elements—the Birchists, the followers of Senator Goldwater, and the notorious rebel general and fascist Walker have built their nests precisely in Texas. "U. S. Reds Denies Oswald a member."

From communist China, from Cuba, and from the *Daily Worker*, the official communist paper of America, came like charges. "All joined in saying that Kennedy was killed as a result of a campaign of hate by 'right-wingers,' by which is meant those who oppose communism and socialism and who would keep a free, independent and solvent America, particularly opponents of communism.

The notorious columnist Drew Pearson joined in with communists and their slanderous charges. He

said that Dallas, Texas, was "the most violent and crime-ridden city in America." He said that Dr. Carl McIntire in opposing the modernism and political activities of the National Council of Churches was "a hate monger" and that people like him made the climate that caused the President's murder. Socialist-minded Democratic leaders hastened to try to cover up the fact that it was a socialist, a Marxist, far to the left politically, who killed him and to charge that to what they called "the extreme right." (President Kennedy and the New Frontier were also considerably "Left of Center" too, as President Roosevelt plainly stated his own position to be.) Radical columnists joined in to say all who ever criticized the wasteful extravagance of the New Frontier, with its billions of dollars deficit in the high days of prosperity, were "hate mongers."

All who were against sending billions of aid to communist Yugoslavia and Poland, or to wasteful Negro countries in Africa, or to riot-ridden dictatorships in South America, or to "neutrality" but pro-communist countries in Southeast Asia; all who complained of this waste were accused of guilt in the President's murder!

If one spoke up for states' rights and for obeying the laws of the states, he was a "hate monger." Anybody who voted against President Kennedy because he was a Catholic was a "hate monger." Anybody who opposed overturning southern cities by marshal law was a "hate monger." Any fundamental Christian who opposed the National Council of Churches or op-

posed modernism in principal denominations was a "hate monger!" Active friends of Senator Goldwater were put under suspicion. The House Committee on Un-American Activities was slandered.

All of this was false. Most of it was deliberate slander. Most of it was for an evil motive. Many took advantage of the situation to campaign politically for the Democratic party. Now anyone who was against waste in government was disloyal to President Kennedy! Anybody who opposed the United Nations was an enemy of peace. Anyone who did not want to sell wheat to Soviet Russia, anyone who did not want to vote that the government should take on the socialistic medical care of the aged, anyone who spoke up for Free Enterprise in private business in matters of hiring workers or serving customers, was subject to slander.

2. To the Everlasting Credit of America and the Fundamental Americans and Fundamental Christians, the Silly Charges Are False

Let me quote here from the *Wall Street Journal*.

Here is most of the article:

"No Time for Collective Guilt"

"In the shock of these past few days it is understandable that Americans should find their grief mingled with some shame that these events should happen in their country. We all stand a little less tall than we did last Friday morning.

"Yet, for our own part, we find past understanding the remarks of some otherwise thoughtful men who, in their

moment of shock, would indict a whole nation with a collective guilt. It seems to us that they themselves have yielded to the hysteria they would charge to others, and in so doing show that their own country is past their understanding.

"Anyone who has been reading the newspapers, listening to the radio or watching television has heard these men; they include public commentators, members of our Congress and men of God. And the substance of what they charge is that the whole of the American people—and by inclusion, the ways of the American society—are wrapped in a collective guilt for the murder of a President and the murder of a murderer.

"A Senator said that the responsibility lay on 'the people of Dallas' because this is where the events took place. A spokesman for one group of our people said the nation was 'reaping the whirlwind of hatred.' One of our highest judges said the President's murder was stimulated by the 'hatred and malevolence' that are eating their way into the bloodstream of American life.' A newspaper of great renown passed judgment that 'none of us can escape a share of the fault for the spiral of violence.' And these were but a few among many.

"SUCH STATEMENTS can only come from men who have not been abroad in the land, neither passed to reflect how the events came about nor observed in what manner the whole American people have responded to tragedy.

"A President lies dead because he moved freely among the people. He did so because he was beloved by many people, respected by all, and because everywhere people turned out in great numbers to pay him honor. In a society of tyranny the heads of state move in constant fear of murder, censored behind an army of policemen. It is the fundamental orderliness of the American society that leads Presidents to move exposed to all the people, making possible the act of a madman.

"In sum, there is in all of this—let there be no mistake—much to grieve, to regret, to blame. We can't escape remorse that there are madmen in our midst, that a President is dead, that we have been denied the right to show in open court the virtue of a free society. Now we pay the price of all sorts of negligence.

"But this is something different from the charge in the indictment. It is more than nonsense to say that the good people of Dallas, crowding the streets to honor a President, share a murderous guilt; or that the tragic acts of madmen cast a shadow on the whole of America. Such an indictment is vicious.

"Of reasons for shame, we have enough this day without adding to them a shameful injustice to a mourning people."

It would not have been altogether surprising, we suppose, if someone who had suffered grievous wrong at the hands of the administration, mostly conserva-

tives, of course, had hated the President, but it was none of those who wished the President harm, who broke the law, who murdered the President.

General Edwin Walker, because he was an officer in charge of American troops in Germany and indoctrinated his troops about the dangers of communism, was removed from his command. Socialists in government wanted no fight on communism, no warning of soldiers of left-wing tendencies in America. So General Walker was humiliated and brought home. He resigned from the army so he would be free to speak and retire up all the insurance and retirement pay to which he was entitled after a lifetime of distinguished service to America, so he might freely speak as an American citizen against communism and socialism.

General Edwin Walker was for states' rights. He thought it was wrong for the Federal Government to interfere in Oxford, Mississippi, to override the laws of Mississippi, to insult the governor elected by the people who was trying to enforce the laws of his state as he had sworn to do. General Walker said so, so he was arrested, was railroaded to an insane asylum without trial, although he was obviously sane. One hundred thousand dollars bail was demanded to have him released from prison. That was a blot on all America. It smelled like dictatorship. The Kennedy administration was showing its teeth through the program by which it would gain the Negro vote all over America by slandering and abusing white southerners, by overriding the rights given to

the states by the Federal Constitution.

General Walker or one of his sons or close friends might have had bitterness in his heart. It would not have been surprising to many if one so grievously wronged should have hated the President. But the man who was standing up for America against communism is not the murderer, the criminal. Real Americanism does not make murderers. It was the pro-communist and socialist young criminal Harvey Oswald who killed the President!

Two white men are killed when the Kennedy administration spent four million dollars to compel the University of Mississippi to take as a student a Negro selected by National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. They were not rotting; no charges were brought against them. The matter has never been explained but hushed up. It would be understandable if some of the loved ones of those murdered men, blamed on the unwise zeal of Bobby Kennedy and the administration's effort to garner Negro votes, should hold hate toward the administration. Granted the Kennedys thought they were right in the matter, and granted that the motives were probably good. But before President Kennedy died he saw, and the Democratic leaders saw, they were unwise. They overran the rights of many common people; they flaunted the laws of certain southern states; they had not taken time and Christian charity to work out details with good people on the race question. So they changed their tactics

somewhat and they removed some of the pressure on the race issue.

But if it is now wrong, it was wrong then. And no matter, right or wrong, the murdered men left families who loved them. It would not be surprising if some such person had hated the President. But it was none of these fighting for the laws of the states and for the Federal government to respect good people everywhere, who murdered the President. It was a pro-communist outlaw, a left-wing criminal, Harvey Oswald.

It was not one of the steel executives, though some of the steel companies lost multiplied thousands of dollars because of the radical attack by Federal forces on the steel industry when they raised prices. Thus the administration usurped dictatorial power when they curbed free enterprise, the free American way. These businessmen, shamed, defrauded of their rights, did not attack President Kennedy. No, those on "the right," those for Americanism, are not the ones who kill presidents. It was left-winger Harvey Oswald.

Modernists who spit on the blood of Jesus and who mock at the authority of the Bible may turn out to be lawless, because they are against the Bible and its moral authority. Bible-believing fundamentalism does not make for lawlessness. Those who join in with communists, who break down American traditions and to take over America for communism, are against God and the Bible and morality and law. But old-time fundamental Americans, those who are called "the extreme right," are not usually lawless. They are hu-

man and, like all humans, they do wrong. But fundamental Americanism does not make criminals. Left-wing socialism and communism and left-wing religion do make criminals.

Oh; there must be a gully conscience among all the left-wingers that they tried so hard to cover up the fact that it was Oswald, an avowed communist, who had been to Russia, who married a Russian girl, who learned the writings of Karl Marx, who wanted to renounce his American citizenship, who took the part of Fidel Castro—that such a man killed the President.

IV. SOME LESSONS AMERICA NEEDS TO REMEMBER

The tragic death of President Kennedy and the period of mourning, the readjustment and the new President, all leave us with certain important lessons which we need to take to heart and remember.

1. It Is Dangerous to Christianity and America's Welfare to Have a Catholic President

In running for office, President Kennedy said that he would put the welfare of America first and that should there be a conflict between what the pope at Rome and the Catholic church required and what he felt was best for America, he would still do what was best for America. I think he meant it. I think he honestly tried to live up to that promise. I believe that he honestly accepted the American position of the separa-

tion of church and state. I think that President Kennedy was a dedicated American. He served his country in World War II. He did not die for his country. I think Policeman Tippitt in Dallas did that. President Kennedy was in Texas running for re-election, trying to carry the state in the next campaign. So he was not a martyr. But by American standards and disregarding spiritual questions for the moment, he was a good American and in many respects a good President. I mean no reelection on President Kennedy as a loyal Catholic when I say that I am still opposed to a Catholic as President of the United States and I think it hurtful.

Again, let me say very plainly, I think that multitudes of Catholics are good American citizens. They have the same right to vote, the same right to run for office as Protestants or infidels, and we all want them to have that right. Those who want to vote for a Catholic for President have that right. But I have an equal right to vote against a Catholic for President if I feel I should. And I do feel that, other things being equal, it is best not to have a Catholic for President. Although the mighty power of the Roman hierarchy did not openly control President Kennedy, and I think he would never intentionally consent to that control, still that power is dangerous, it has been used in nearly every nation in the world, including America, and I do not want America endangered by a secret, nationwide, world-wide machine loyal to a foreign potentate and bringing pressure on American policies. I believe that good Catholics, like other good Ameri-

cans, would try to vote right, would try to pass good laws, would try to keep their oaths of office. But I think that a Catholic President has been harmful for America, and here are some of the reasons why.

The death of the President brought into strong focus everywhere the fact that the Catholic church has a plan of salvation utterly foreign to the Bible, a salvation that depends on the Catholic church and the rites of the church, a plan of salvation where "good" people, church people like Kennedy, go to purgatory and are prayed out or paid out by having masses said in churches.

In the *Nashville Tennessean* for Sunday, November 24, the religious news editor said: "In all Episcopal churches in Tennessee, prayers were offered yesterday for the repose of the soul of the late President." The same article tells us, "At Catholic Church of the Holy Name, a chain of prayers begun at Kennedy's death and continued until the special mass at 8 a.m. yesterday. Various parish organizations were in charge of the all-night vigil.

"Many of those at the vigil said this prayer:

"Incline thine ear, O Lord, to our prayers, with which we supplicate thy mercy that thou set the soul of thy servant, John, which thou has commanded to pass from this world, into a region of peace and light and order that it be at the fellowship of the saints. . . ."

That is not Christianity. There is nothing in the Bible that indicates that one may be saved

after death or that there is a purgatory from which one could be released or that offering of masses for the dead or for anybody else is ever effective. That is not Bible Christianity. It is not the religion of Jesus Christ. It does violence to the blood atonement, violence nothing in all the Bible like that.

I grant you that Catholics have a right to their religion, but for it to be paraded on TV and radio and in the newspapers all over America for fifteen or eighteen hours a day, day after day, as if it were Christianity, does great harm to America. From Saturday through Monday, TV programs over the nation were occupied with a portrayal of Catholic "requiem masses for the soul of the President."

I do not mind a Catholic president having a Catholic funeral. Even though it became a national ceremony, he was a Catholic, his family were Catholics, and he had a right to a Catholic funeral. I do not think that all that unscriptural ritual, all the form and ceremony, with nothing about the blood of Christ or salvation by faith in Christ, or the new birth, properly represents America religiously.

But my concern is that now millions of Americans, impressionable people, people who loved President Kennedy, have been taught that salvation is by the church, through rites and ceremonies, through masses, through prayers for the dead, etc., and that is a great danger to America.

All over America, now, for one to expose the false doctrine of Romanism means that he is brand-

ed as a "hate monger." Did we not have a Catholic President? Then that must be true Christianity! Yesterday came a letter from a woman angry because THE SWORD OF THE LORD took sides against false doctrine. Thousands of Bible-believing preachers and churches have had their work made much more difficult by the Roman Catholic influence on radio and TV and in the newspapers during the last three and a half years. And millions of Americans are now less open to the Gospel and more turned toward formalism in religion and toward an idea of salvation by the church and by repeating prayers and by masses for the dead instead of personally coming to trust Christ as Saviour. To make the Roman plan of salvation popular instead of the Bible plan of conversion is bad for America.

Remember, I insist every Catholic has a right to run for office and has a right to vote for anyone he chooses. I have exactly the same right to vote for those I feel would be better for America. Every Catholic has a right if he wishes to try to teach people that a Catholic President would be better for America than a Protestant President. I have exactly the same right to insist that a Catholic President will give great popularity to false doctrine and a false religion which leads people away from the Bible and away from Christ, to a form and ceremony that cannot save.

I think that economically, socially, politically, there are great dangers for America in a Catholic President, too, though they are not immediately apparent. I

think that in every nation where Roman Catholics have had the prevailing and controlling influence, there has been a lessening of the liberty, the welfare of the people. Has Catholicism in its very center in Italy made Italy great as the United States is great? Has Catholicism in Latin-American countries made them great as Canada and the United States settled about the same time, but without Catholic control?

2. This Is Still a Free Country and American Citizens Have the Right of Free Speech, Free Assembly and the Free Vote

There are those in America who would count it a crime to criticize the party and the administration in power. That is the way it is in General Franco's dictatorship in Spain. That is the way it was under Hitler in Germany. That is the way it is under Khrushchev in Russia. Thank God, it is not yet true in America. A man has a right to vote for the man he thinks he should vote for, for office and he has a right to criticize the man in office whom he thinks does not adequately fulfill his duties. America is still a country of free speech. It is not a crime to speak out against the United Nations, to speak out against the overwhelming public debt, to speak out against the foreign aid program. Honest people have honest convictions, and it is not only an American right, but the American duty for people to express themselves and their convictions on such matters. If you believe the Federal Government should arrogantly override

the state governments in speeding desegregation, you have the right to say so. If, like thousands, you oppose that and feel patience and charity will do it better in more time this is a free country: say so!

Newspaper columnists made much of the fact that Adlai Stevenson, the United States delegate to the United Nations, was slapped with a cardboard placard by a woman in Dallas! They would be much more justified in objecting to the murder and the beatings of the labor unions in the thirteen-year plumbing strike in Milwaukee when the hoodlums themselves and labor union criminals were backed up by the Federal Government. No one is less a good American citizen because he thinks we should not give up our rights to the United Nations. On the other hand, no one is necessarily a poor citizen who is in favor of using the United Nations as a method for communication between nations, and to try to maintain peace. America is still a country of free opinion and free speech and free assemblage.

If Senator Goldwater thinks that the Tennessee Valley Authority is socialist, as I do, where the few are benefited at the cost of the many, he has a right to say so. The safety of America and of our liberty will be better furthered by free speech than by a gag rule on private opinion.

No one has to agree with all the policies of the Democratic administration, whether President Kennedy or President Lyndon B. Johnson, in order to be a good American. In exactly the same way, no one has to agree with Senator Barry Goldwater in order

to be a good American. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty, and free speech is part of that vigilance.

3. America Is Still a Stable Country, Ruled by Law

We can thank God that the transition from the presidency of the slain President to the administration of Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson was a smooth and orderly transition. America is made that way. We are a country of well-established government, a good Constitution. When presidents have died in office in America, it has never been because of an insurrection, never a coup by political rivals. In many countries a president or dictator may be overthrown, armed men storm the place, throw out the legislative body, and take over the government. That is never true in America. Thank God, America is the best established, most solid government of the people in the world, as far as we know.

President Lyndon B. Johnson was immediately the acting President when it became known that President Kennedy was dead. A few minutes later he was the sworn President and had assumed the office officially, with its responsibilities and duties and privileges.

In Chicago the TV cameras presented many people on the streets who expressed their sorrow and grief at the death of President Kennedy. That was proper. One greatly distressed Negro man said, "I hope that the United States government will survive." He did not know, but I hope he has since learned, that America is not John

Fitzgerald Kennedy, it is not Lyndon B. Johnson, it is no one man or any small group of men. America is the whole population represented by a Constitution, by laws and institutions which are stable, unshaken, self-perpetuating. We can thank God that although there was great mourning, the business of government went on as usual, and the transfer of the presidency from the man slain to his successor was a matter of minutes and without a political ripple.

4. America Has a Great President in Lyndon B. Johnson: We Should Pray for Him

America seems unusually fortunate in that the presidency in a tragic hour fell to a man who is well-equipped for the job, possibly the best-equipped man to come to the presidency in many decades. He has spent many, many years in Washington. He was for many years a leader in the Senate, the most powerful man in getting legislation through the Senate. He is a politician in the good sense of knowing how to work with other people to bring things to agreement.

We trust that Lyndon B. Johnson is a Christian man. He is a member of a Christian church. He said in his inauguration, "I need your help and God's."

And I think it is fair to say that Lyndon B. Johnson is far nearer to the common people of America, coming from a ranch in West Texas, than John Kennedy, coming from a rich Catholic family and from Massachusetts. Lyndon B. Johnson is fairly well-to-do, but he grew up in a modest home and earned his own way. To come

to the presidency with a million dollars of inherited wealth which he did not earn, tended in the case of Franklin D. Roosevelt and in the case of John Kennedy to profligate spending of other people's money. In the case of Lyndon B. Johnson, we hope that he will more nearly represent the heartbeat of poor and common, hard-working people. We do not hold it against a man that he has earned money. But for a man to spend lavishly money that he never earned, ill equips him for handling other people's money.

President Lyndon B. Johnson was elected on the same platform with President Kennedy. He has espoused the same general principles. He seems to have made some earnest effort to reduce expenses. We think that is not nearly enough, but at least that was greatly needed and will be to the advantage of America. We do not expect to vote for Mr. Johnson, if some capable man of more conservative standards and less socialist and left-wing leanings is available. But we believe he is a good man, will make a good President, and we pray God to bless him and to bless the great nation of which he is the President.

5. There Are Some Great Spiritual Principles Which Ought to Be Called to Our Mind as We Remember the Death of President Kennedy

First, remember that God puts up kings and takes them down, that God exalts whom He will. Those in place of leadership should remember that they hold their

leadership at the pleasure of a God who rules all things.

Second, I must point out to every reader that sin must be punished, that one must reap what he sows, that a jealous God visits the iniquity of the fathers upon the children. And particularly in the liquor business we should remind every reader of God's Word, "Woe unto him that giveth his neighbour drink, that puttest thy bottle to him. . . ." (Hab. 2:15). Liquor is a curse to everyone who drinks it and a curse to every person who serves it, a curse to every bartender who sells it, to every newspaper that advertises it, a curse to every citizen who votes for it. It has brought endless woe to America. Preachers had better preach this truth: that men must

reap what they sow. God is not mocked.

Third, death is only a breath away. No one knows when he must die. Everyone should prepare to meet God.

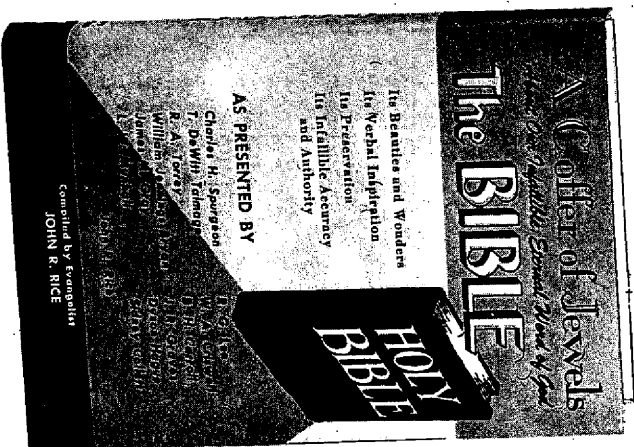
And fourth, let me remind every reader that the only salvation for any of us is by coming to Christ personally, trusting Him. No one is saved because he is a Protestant or because he is a Catholic. No one is saved because he goes to church or because he says prayers or because there are masses for him in church. One is saved only if he comes personally to trust in Jesus Christ and receives a new heart, relying on the atoning work of Jesus to pay for our sins. Oh, make sure that you have trusted Him as Saviour.

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